

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering a parcel by a carrier to a secure receptacle at a location of an intended recipient, comprising the steps of:

(a) dispatching the carrier with the parcel to the location of the intended recipient in accordance with delivery instructions on the parcel, the location corresponding to the address of the intended recipient on delivery instructions provided by a sender;

(b) the carrier accessing the secure receptacle at the location;

(c) the carrier placing the parcel within the accessed secure receptacle;

(d) the carrier securing the secure receptacle after placing the parcel within the secure receptacle;

(e) the carrier making further deliveries at additional locations after having placed the parcel within the secure receptacle; and

(f) using a scanner positioned within the secure receptacle, automatically registering the placement of the parcel within the secure receptacle after the securing step by scanning a label on the parcel to obtain the placement data in response to the receptacle being secured and communicating the placement data comprising at least a portion of the delivery instructions from the scanned label on the parcel over a communication link.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, including the additional steps of:
reading a code on the parcel in response to the securing step; and
storing the code in a memory.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, the registering step including the additional steps of:

accessing a remote location by the communication link; and

conveying the placement data to the remote location;

wherein the registering step is in response to the securing step.

4. (Original) The method as in claim 1, wherein the secure receptacle has a locked state and an unlocked state, and wherein the accessing step includes the additional step of:

moving from the locked state to the unlocked state in a response to an authorized identifier.

5. (Original) The method as in claim 4, wherein the authorized identifier is received from at least one of: a magnetic strip card, a key pad, and a smart card.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein the secure receptacle has a locked state and an unlocked state, and wherein the securing step includes the additional step of:

moving from the unlocked state to the locked state after receiving the parcel.

7. (Original) The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in response to the accessing step.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in response to the securing step.

9. (Original) The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in response to the registering step.

10. (Original) The method as in claim 1, where in the placing step is performed at night.

Claims 11-40 (Canceled)